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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 19 FEB 2008 200103014

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US
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SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1994

1. RWANDA PRESS GUIDANCE (AF, IO, AND PRM), A RWANDA TAKEN QUESTION (AF), A NIGERIA PRESS GUIDANCE (AF), AND A SOMALIA PRESS GUIDANCE (IO) ARE BELOW.

2. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: ATWOOD/RPF

Q: WHAT DID BRIAN ATWOOD MEAN WHEN HE SAID THAT THE U.S. WOULD HELP REBUILD THE COUNTRY IF THE RPF STOPPED FIGHTING AND FORMED AN ACCEPTABLE GOVERNMENT?

A: MR. ATWOOD'S STATEMENT IS A REFLECTION OF OUR LONGSTANDING POSITION THAT THERE MUST BE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND THAT RWANDA'S BEST CHANCE FOR LASTING PEACE IS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRULY BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF POWERSHARING EMBODIED IN THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORD.

PRIOR TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE WAR THE U.S. HAD AN ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN RWANDA. WE WOULD LIKE TO RESUME THIS PROGRAM WHEN THE SITUATION PERMITS.

Q: DO WE PLAN TO RECOGNIZE THE RPF?

A: WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE ANY GOVERNMENT IN RWANDA AT THIS TIME.

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WE BELIEVE THE POLITICAL PROCESS SHOULD PROCEED. THE
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ARUSHA ACCORD CALLS FOR THE FORMATION OF A BROAD-BASED
TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. THIS ACCORD PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK
FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.

IT IS CRUCIAL FOR RWANDA THAT IT HAVE A BROADLY
REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT THAT COMES INTO BEING THROUGH
TRUE DIALOGUE AMONG THE RELEVANT POLITICAL FORCES AND NOT
THROUGH MILITARY CONQUEST.

Q: WHAT KIND OF CONTACTS HAVE WE HAD WITH THE RPF? HAS
ATWOOD MET OR IS HE PLANNING TO MEET WITH THEM?

A: WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH THE RPF AT THE
HIGHEST LEVELS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL HAVE REPEATEDLY SPOKEN BY
PHONE TO THE RPF LEADERSHIP IN RWANDA, AND WE HAVE MET
WITH RPF REPRESENTATIVES HERE, IN NEW YORK, AND OVERSEAS.

WE HAVE ALSO MAINTAINED REGULAR CONTACT WITH OTHER
POLITICAL FORCES IN RWANDA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE MET
WITH PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE FAUSTIN TWAGIRAMUNGU ON HIS
RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MR. ATWOOD'S TRIP WAS TO ASSESS
THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS THAT HAS DEVELOPED IN THE GOMA
AREA OF ZAIRE AS A RESULT OF THE HUGE INFUX OF RWANDAN
REFUGEES, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL
COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE. HE DID
NOT TRAVEL INTO RWANDA OR MEET WITH THE RPF.

USAID HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE RPF ON RELIEF
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ISSUES, WHILE ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND OTHERS
CONTINUE INTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH THE RPF ON THE DIPLOMATIC
SIDE.

Q: WHERE DOES POLITICAL RECONCILIATION STAND?

A: PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL RECONCILIATION WILL DEPEND ON
THE ACTIONS OF VARIOUS RWANDAN PARTIES IN THE COMING DAYS
AND WEEKS.

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WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY FOR RWANDANS TO ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION IS TO FOLLOW THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARUSHA ACCORD AND PROCEED WITH SERIOUS DIALOGUE AMONG RELEVANT POLITICAL FORCES TO FORM A TRULY BROAD-BASED TRANSITION GOVERNMENT THAT WILL REASSURE AND BE ACCEPTED BY THE GENERAL POPULATION.

WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE RPF HAS APPEALED TO THE FLEEING POPULATION TO RETURN TO RWANDA, ASSERTING THAT THOSE NOT GUILTY OF INSTIGATING GENOCIDE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. THE RPF SHOULD REINFORCE THIS APPEAL THROUGH THE FORMATION OF A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD REASSURE ALL RWANDANS.

3. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: CURRENT SITUATION

Q: PLEASE PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING.

A: UN SOURCES REPORT THAT AS OF LAST NIGHT, THERE WAS RESIDUAL FIGHTING TAKING PLACE IN GISENYI, DESPITE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CEASE-FIRE UNILATERALLY DECLARED BY THE RPF. WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER THERE IS SHELLING TODAY. RGF MEMBERS AND HUTU REFUGEES CONTINUE TO FLEE INTO ZAIRE.

(FYI: THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE MOHAMMAD KHAN HAS BEEN IN NAIROBI FOR THE LAST COUPLE DAYS, SO IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE UN TO GET THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION ON WHAT'S GOING ON.)

4. PRM PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: REFUGEE UPDATE

Q: WOULD YOU PROVIDE US WITH AN UPDATE ON RWANDAN REFUGEES?

A: THERE ARE NOW ABOUT ONE MILLION RWANDAN REFUGEES IN THE GOMA AREA OF ZAIRE.

ANOTHER 150,000 REFUGEES HAVE CROSSED INTO ZAIRE AT BUKAVU (SOUTH OF GOMA) AND 750,000 OTHERS ARE MOVING TOWARD ZAIRE FROM THE FRENCH SAFE ZONE INSIDE RWANDA.

SOME 50,000 REFUGEES ARRIVED IN BURUNDI OVER THE WEEKEND BRINGING THE NUMBER OF RWANDAN REFUGEES IN BURUNDI TO

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140,000.

IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, OVER 400,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES REMAIN IN TANZANIA.

Q: HAVE EMERGENCY AIRLIFTS RESUMED?
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A: THE UNITED NATIONS AIRLIFTS INTO GOMA RESUMED YESTERDAY.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT MR. ATWOOD'S TRIP?

A: BRIAN ATWOOD, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) ADMINISTRATOR AND THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, WENT TO ZAIRE LAST WEEKEND TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.

HE VISITED GOMA AND BUKAVU TO EVALUATE THE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF THE NEW REFUGEES IN ZAIRE AND THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN RWANDA. HE ALSO TRAVELED TO BUJUMBURA TO ASSESS THE INCREASING REFUGEE PRESENCE AND ETHNIC TENSIONS IN BURUNDI.

MR. ATWOOD IS PRESENTLY IN NAIROBI WHERE HE IS DISCUSSING ASSISTANCE NEEDS WITH THE OFDA/DART (DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONSE) TEAM. HE RETURNS TO THE U.S. ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO HELP?

A: PRESIDENT CLINTON AUTHORIZED ON JULY 17 THE USE OF UP TO 19 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE U.S. EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND TO MEET THE UNEXPECTED AND URGENT NEEDS GENERATED BY THE RWANDA CRISIS.

THIS BRINGS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO OVER 120 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE RWANDA RELIEF EFFORTS SINCE APRIL 1994.

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THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTED 34.6 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH IS FOR USE BY UNHCR, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS (IFRC), AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) TO SUPPORT THEIR

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ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE EARLIER WAVES OF REFUGEES.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WILL UNDERTAKE ANOTHER 80 HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT MISSIONS. DOD HAS ALREADY CARRIED OUT OVER 100 HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFTS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES SINCE THE START OF THE CRISIS IN RWANDA. AIRLIFT SUPPORT TO DATE IS VALUED AT NEARLY 7 MILLION DOLLARS.

USAID'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) HAS MADE 11.2 MILLION DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) WORKING INSIDE RWANDA.

FOOD FOR PEACE HAS APPROVED CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALMOST 66 MILLION DOLLARS IN FOOD COMMODITIES FOR THE RWANDA/BURUNDI REGIONAL EMERGENCY SINCE APRIL.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS PROVIDED 4 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF FOOD COMMODITIES FOR THE RWANDA/BURUNDI EMERGENCY SINCE APRIL.

5. AF TAKEN QUESTION - RWANDA: DIPLOMATIC STEPS (7/18)

Q: WHAT DIPLOMATIC STEPS HAS THE U.S. BEEN PURSUING TO
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ALLEVIATE THE VIOLENCE WITHIN RWANDA? HAS THE U.S. BEEN DEALING WITH THE RPF?

A: SINCE THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMARA ON APRIL 6, THE UNITED STATES HAS MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH A WIDE SPECTRUM OF RWANDANS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF), IN AN EFFORT TO PRESS OUR GOALS OF ENDING THE KILLINGS, ACHIEVING A CEASE-FIRE AND RESUMING TALKS WITHIN THE ARUSHA FRAMEWORK.

PRESIDENT CLINTON DISPATCHED THE SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, USAID ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD, TO ZAIRE TO ASSESS THE SITUATION. MR. ATWOOD WAS IN GOMA TODAY TO LOOK AT THE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF BOTH NEW REFUGEES IN ZAIRE AND THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN RWANDA.

6. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - NIGERIA: GENERAL SITUATION

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Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE RIOTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN LAGOS YESTERDAY?

A: OUR EMBASSY IN LAGOS HAS CONFIRMED INDEPENDENTLY THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS YESTERDAY. WE CALL ON THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS TO DEMONSTRATE PEACEFULLY.

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN NIGERIA?

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A: THE JULY 4 NATIONAL UNION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS STRIKE CONTINUES. ACUTE FUEL SHORTAGES REMAIN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS ONE MAIN REFINERY HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN. THE MILITARY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SUPPLY CUSTOMERS. IN LAGOS, TRAFFIC IS AT A STANDSTILL.

THE NIGERIAN LABOUR CONGRESS IS CALLING FOR A GENERAL STRIKE POSSIBLY TO START TODAY.

WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY. WE REMIND ALL AMERICANS THAT A TRAVEL ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR NIGERIA.

Q: WHAT IS OUR OVERALL POLICY TOWARD NIGERIA?

A: THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS RESPONSIBLE EFFORTS TO RESTORE CIVILIAN, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT TO NIGERIA. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY URGED THE NIGERIAN MILITARY TO RELEASE THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 12, 1993 ELECTIONS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT AND WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY INDIVIDUAL. OUR INTEREST IS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AND RESPECT FOR A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS THAT ENSURES THAT THE WILL OF THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE IS RESPECTED.

7. TO PRESS GUIDANCE - SOMALIA: UNOSOM CONVOY AMBUSHED

Q: WHAT ARE THE DETAILS ON THE ATTACK YESTERDAY ON A

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UNOSOM CONVOY?

A: YESTERDAY A THREE-VEHICLE UNOSOM CONVOY WAS AMBUSHED NEAR THE PASTA FACTORY IN THE NORTHERN CORNER OF MOGADISHU. TWO MALAYSIANS ESCORTING THE CONVOY WERE KILLED. OTHER UNOSOM MILITARY OFFICERS TRAVELING WITH THE CONVOY WERE HELD BRIEFLY AND LATER RELEASED (6:00 PM JULY 18, NEW YORK TIME.) THERE WERE NO AMERICANS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONVOY. IT IS UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME WHO WAS BEHIND THE ATTACK OR WHAT THE MOTIVE MAY HAVE BEEN. WITH THE HELP OF THE U.S. LIAISON OFFICE IN MOGADISHU, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE FACTS AND AN UPDATE ON THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT.

Q: WHAT WILL UNOSOM DO NOW?

A: AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, (JULY 29) THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL MUST REVIEW THE MANDATE FOR UNOSOM AND DETERMINE ITS FUTURE. WE REMAIN ENGAGED WITH THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNOSOM AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ITS OPERATIONS. WE SUPPORT THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOMALIA AND TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL RECONCILIATION.

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